

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An orderwire controller and orderwire control system which provide enhanced capabilities of flexible orderwire signaling to improve usability and maintainability. A network system involves multiple ring networks, each of which comprises a plurality of network elements interconnected in a ring topology. An orderwire controller, implemented in a network element, comprises a plurality of mixers and a combination controller. The mixers add up orderwire signals from local and remote sources. The combination controller controls how to associate the mixers with the rings, to provide flexible connections among the rings so that they can share their orderwire signals.